

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

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P 272208Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4533

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5852

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EXPULSION OF ABC STRINGER GEORGE ROTH (UK  
NATIONAL)

1. MORNING AUGUST 27 USIS WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHOONE FROM ABC  
NEW YORK THAT GEORGE ROTH, UK NATIONAL AND LOCAL STRINGER FOR  
AMERICAN BROADCASTING CORP. AND CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORP.  
WAS BEING EXPELLED FROM CHILE, APPARENTLY FOR FURNISHING PHOTOGRAPHS  
ACCOMPANYING A RECENT TIME ARTICLE, AND WOULD BE LEAVING  
COUNTRY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

2. AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED JUNTA PRESS ADVISER FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY  
TO ASCERTAIN FACTS. WILLOUGHBY ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT ROTH HAD  
NOT BEEN EXPELLED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY ASCERTAINED  
FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR THAT NO DECREE HAD BEEN ISSUED  
EXPELLING ROTH. WILLOUGHBY COMPLAINED THAT ROTH WAS SEEKING TO  
CREATE AN INCIDENT, EITHER FOR PERSONAL PUBLICITY OR OTHER REASONS.  
HE (WILLOUGHBY) SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM  
A MR. STEIN OF ABC IN NEW YORK AND HAD TOLD STEIN THAT ROTH WAS  
GUILTY OF SPREADING FALSE REPORTS. THUS THE PRESENT SITUATION IS  
THAT ROTH HAS NOT BEEN EXPELLED, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY  
WELL DECIDE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST HIM BECAUSE OF THE REPORTS  
HE HAS SPREAD AROUND TOWN.

3. USIS INFORMATION OFFICER APPROACHED ROTH, WHO SAID RELIABLE  
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CONTACT IN INTERNATIONAL POLICE HAD TOLD HIM DECREE ACTUALLY EXISTED

AND WOULD BE SERVED LATER IN DAY. QUERIED ON THIS POINT, WILLOUGHBY INSISTED HIS ORIGINAL POSITION WAS CORRECT. BRITISH CONSUL ENTERED THE PICTURE, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY POLICE CONTACT THAT DECREE WAS BEING WITHDRAWN. CONSUL BELIEVES US INQUIRY MAY HAVE BEEN DECISIVE.

4. WILLOUGHBY SAID HE WOULD SEE ROTH TOMORROW AUGUST 28 TO ASK EXPLANATION FOR ROTH'S SPREADING EXPULSION STORY. WE CANNOT EXCLUDE CATCH 22 SITUATION IN WHICH ROTH MAY BE PENALIZED OR EVEN EXPELLED FOR HAVING REACTED TO WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AN AUTHENTIC REPORT REGARDING EXISTANCE OF EXPULSION DECREE.

5. OF INCIDENTAL INTEREST IS FACT THAT GOC CONSIDERS ROTH A TROUBLEMAKER. WILLOUGHBY STATED HE WAS WITH CHE GUEVARA AND REGIS DEBRAY IN BOLIVIA AT TIME WHEN GUEVARA WAS KILLED. OUR INFORMATION OFFICER SAYS THAT ROTH IS BADLY SHAKEN AND SEEMS IN NO WAY A TROUBLEMAKER. ROTH SAYS HE SPEND 15 HOURS WITH GUEVARA PROFESSIONALLY, AND THAT HE WAS THEREUPON JAILED FOR THREE MONTHS IN BOLIVIA AND HELD UNDER SURVEILLANCE AN ADDITIONAL TWO MONTHS. HE HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH CHILEAN AUTHORITIES SHORTLY AFTER JUNTA CAME INTO POWER.

6. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO WILLOUGHBY THAT OUR INTEREST IN THIS CASE STEMS FROM ABC CONCERN, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR GOC IF STORY WERE TO BE SPREAD. WE HAVE ASKED LOCAL UPI REP TO HOLD UP EXPULSION STORY PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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